

OVERVIEW						
<p>The Brazilian Giant White-knee Tarantula (<i>Acanthoscurria geniculata</i>) is a beautiful, robust and large tarantula that is very popular with keepers despite its skittish nature and defensive attitude. It is quick to flick its urticating hairs and somewhat prone to defend with a bite if provoked, but makes an impressive display spider due to its size, gorgeous pattern and color. This species has dark legs boldly striped with white, a greyish carapace and an abdomen covered with orangish-red hairs. Adult females commonly reach 7" in diagonal legspan. This spider is native to the forests of northern Brazil. It is extremely similar in appearance to another Brazilian species, <i>Acanthoscurria brocklehursti</i> and they are often confused by hobbyists. The latter is somewhat heavier bodied and has narrower bands of white at the leg joints.</p>						
ENVIRONMENT						
Conditions »	Day Temp	75-78°F	Night Temp	70-75°F	Humidity	65-80%
Heat Source »	<p>Usually unnecessary. House enclosure in a warm area that provides appropriate temperature range and minimal drafts, light and vibration. If necessary, terrariums may be heated using a mini heat mat mounted beneath or a very low wattage red (or "nocturnal") bulb safely suspended above. Small containers housing "spiderlings" are best heated by keeping inside a larger heated enclosure that acts as an incubator.</p>					
HOUSING		<p>A terrestrial cage with plenty of ventilation (a plastic critter keeper style terrarium is excellent), slightly moist substrate (commercial organic soil mixes are excellent, but coconut coir or 50/50 sphagnum peat moss/vermiculite mix are just as good), hiding place and small water dish — extra care should be used when raising spiderlings as small containers typically used, such as vials or small jars with lids with small air holes, are too poorly ventilated (we use 16 oz. deli cups with insect cup style lids to raise most young tarantulas). However, young tarantulas do require higher humidity than adults. A light misting once a week will remoisten substrate and provide droplets for drinking.</p>				
DIET		<p>crickets, grasshoppers, roaches, superworms</p>				
KEEPER SAFETY						
<p>Like most New World tarantulas, the Brazilian Giant White-Knee has urticating hairs that they brush from their abdomens when disturbed. These hairs can cause moderate to severe irritation in many people and this species is quick to use them. Additionally, this species has a defensive nature and may deliver a very painful bite. Tarantulas are fragile creatures and we do not advocate handling.</p>						
COMMENTS						
<p>For more information on general tarantula care see: http://www.tarantulas.com/care_info.html For information on raising spiderlings and juvenile tarantulas see: http://www.tarantulas.com/spiderlings.html Also see Michael Jacobi's <i>Tarantulas</i> (Animal Planet Pet Care Library)</p>						